

CHRISTIE'S

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CLASSIC WEEK

Old Masters Evening Sale

Totals £21,772,000/ \$29,109,164 /€24,667,676

Selling 93% by value with 78% of lots exceeding their estimate

El Greco's *'Saint Francis and Brother Leo in Meditation'* from Property from the Collection of Stanford Z. Rothschild, Jr. Realises £6,871,250/ \$9,186,861/ €7,785,126

Running Total of Classic Week £28,363,750/ \$37,943,180/ €32,120,596



London – The *Old Masters Evening Sale* on 7 December totalled £21,772,000/ \$29,109,164/ €24,667,676 and was led by El Greco's *Saint Francis and Brother Leo in Meditation*, from the Collection of Stanford Z. Rothschild, Jr., which sold for £6,871,250/ \$9,186,861/ €7,785,126, becoming the second highest price for the artist at auction. A new world record price for the artist at auction was also set for Bartholomäus Spranger with *Mercury carrying Psyche to Mount Olympus*, which far surpassed the previous record, realising £3,368,750 / \$4,504,019 / €3,816,794. The sale was 77% sold by lot and 93% sold by value, with registered bidders from 30 countries, across 5 continents.

Henry Pettifer, Head of Christie's Old Master Paintings EMERI: "2017 is the second consecutive record year for Old Masters at Christie's. With 78% of lots selling above estimate, tonight's sale was 93% sold by value, the second highest sell-through rate by value for Old Masters, Christie's London. The sale proved the healthy demand for 16th and 17th century Dutch and Flemish paintings, demonstrated by the highly competitive bidding for the works by Spranger, Rembrandt, Ruisdael and

Teniers, among others. We were pleased to see El Greco's superb Saint Francis and Brother Leo in Meditation set the second highest price for the artist at auction, and for the new record for the Spranger which is one of the finest mannerist pictures to come to the market in recent memory. We now look forward to our sale of 'Old Masters including Old Master & British Drawings and Watercolours' on 8 December."

Classic Week continues, concluding on 18 December when *The Astor Collection from Tillypronie, Aberdeenshire* closes. A wrap-up release will follow.

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Notes to editors:

Christie's first Old Masters Online sale *The Lure of Naples: A Private Collection of Italian Views* closed on 7 December, achieving strong sell-through rates of 80% by lot and 87% by value.

Related Features for Upcoming Classic Week Sales:

Valuable Books and Manuscripts | *An alchemist's guide to the elixir of eternal life*: <http://bit.ly/2nb0U1H>

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